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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/757,565	01/11/2001	Kazuaki Kinjyou	Q62622	8323

7590

03/18/2003

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WASHINGTON, DC 20037-3213

EXAMINER

PHAM, HAI CHI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2861

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/757,565

Applicant(s)

KINJYOU ET AL.

Examiner

Hai C Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,6,8-10,12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4,7 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5-6, 8-10, 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sarda (U.S. 4,14,913).

Sarda discloses a thermo-engraving machine, which receives the freshly printed sheet from the printer as a recorder (not shown) (col. 4, lines 8-14), the sheet being fixed on the surface of the medium fixing member (conveyor belt assemblies 15, 27), and submits the printed sheet to a heater and a humidifier, both of which are located in the feeding path (feed conveyor assemblies 15, 27) of the printed sheet. The humidifier includes a tank of liquid, such as water, which is transferred to the printed sheet via the conveyor assembly with a system of water-retaining rollers (wetting rollers 63, 65, 67) (col. 3, lines 26-29). Sarda further teaches the provision of a blower (209) for creating a positive pressure to cause the air flow through conveyor 37" (col. 9, line 62 to col. 10, line 11). With regard to claim 10, Sarda further teaches a heater (tunnel oven 29).

With regard to claim 5, Sarda teaches the humidifier performing its function by a water-retaining roller (wetting rollers 63, 65, 67) that is brought into contact with the fed path of the recording sheet.

3. Alternatively, claims 2, 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by D'Amato (U.S. 4,996,939).

D'Amato discloses an apparatus for drying printed circuit board, connected to a recorder (not shown), the apparatus comprising a medium (conveyor 12) fixing member for fixing a recording medium to its surface, an air supply for supplying outside air into the apparatus to build up positive pressure (col. 3, line 57 to col. 4, line 1), and a dehumidifier (within the dehumidifier chamber 26) located upstream of the air supply port (air output ports 29, 31, 32) to carry out the desired dehumidification function, e.g. so that the humidity is kept constant (col. 6, lines 7-41).

4. Alternatively, claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hoge et al. (CA 2,285,885).

Hoge et al. discloses an integrated air purifier for a printing device, which includes an air supply (fan) for creating a positive pressure air flow into the enclosure (14) of the printing device (15), and a sterile stream humidifier (12) located upstream of the air supply port (air inlet port of the printing device 15) for injecting a regulated amount of humidity in the purified air.

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Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4, 7, 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the primary reason for the indication of the allowability of the above claims 4, 7, 11, is the inclusion of the limitation, in the combination as currently claimed, that the humidifier performs its function by a water-retaining material that is imbibed with water, and that the humidifier is located within the humidifying chamber or between the humidifying air supply and the humidifying chamber, and that is not found taught or fairly suggested by the prior arts made of record, considered alone or in combination.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-10, 12-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection presented in this office action.

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai C Pham whose telephone number is (703) 308-1281. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F (8:30-5:30).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benjamin R. Fuller can be reached on (703) 308-0079. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722, (703) 308-7724, (703) 308-7382, (703) 305-3431, (703) 305-3432 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

March 15, 2003